

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 XMB-07 SP-03 EB-11 L-03 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:LWSEMAKIS:PM

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

EX-IM:TMORAN

EB/IFD/ODF:MLINTON

S/PC:JKAHAN

NEA/EGY:MSTERNER

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R 250025Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 084257

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, TECH, EG

SUBJECT: CAIRO WEST POWER AND NUCLEAR POWER STATION
PROJECTS

REF: CAIRO 2434

1. EX-IM BANK BOARD RECENTLY REVIEWED LOAN FOR CAIRO WEST POWER PROJECT AND DECIDED THAT MORE INFORMATION WAS NEEDED ON QAYSUNI'S ARAB INTERNATIONAL BANK (AIB) AND ON EGYPTIAN ORGANIZATION WHICH RUNS THE ELECTRIC POWER SYSTEM. ACCORDINGLY, ON APRIL 17, EX-IM SENT LETTER TO QAYSUNI VIA INTERNATIONAL MAIL REQUESTING MORE DETAILS ON AIB'S FINANCIAL CONDITION, AND SPECIFICALLY MORE INFORMATION ON WHO EXERCISES CONTROL OVER AIB. IN ADDITION, LETTER DATED APRIL 17 WAS SENT TO EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF ELECTRIC POWER AHMED SULTAN. COPIES OF BOTH LETTERS WERE ALSO HANDED TO EGYPTIAN EMBASSY COMMERCIAL OFFICER, EL NAHAL, WHO SAID HE WOULD CABLE CONTENTS TO CAIRO. EX-IM IS NOW AWAITING RESPONSE TO BOTH LETTERS. ACCORDING TO EX-IM BANK, ADDI-
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TIONAL INFORMATION IS ESSENTIAL BEFORE DECISION CAN BE MADE

IN FAVOR OF GOING AHEAD WITH LOAN.

2. LETTER TO QAYSUNI REQUESTS INFORMATION ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE BANK'S DIRECTORS IN MAKING BANK DECISIONS REGARDING LOAN POLICY; THE CONTROLS UNDER WHICH THE BANK OPERATES; JURISDICTION FOR SETTLEMENT OF LEGAL ISSUES; DETAILS OF LOANS THE BANK HAS MADE; THE SOURCES OF FUNDS LENT BY THE

BANK; AND THE LATEST EARNINGS STATEMENT AND BALANCE SHEET. LETTER TO SULTAN ASKS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE EGYPTIAN GENERAL ELECTRICITY COMPANY (EGEC) WHICH RUNS THE COUNTRY'S ELECTRIC SYSTEM; IDENTIFICATION OF THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE EGEC; NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOE AND THE EGEC; THE EGEC POLICY REGARDING THE SETTING OF RATES; INFORMATION ON CAPITAL INVESTMENT BY EGEC; EXISTING AND PROJECTED GENERATING CAPACITY; LEVEL OF SALES AND HOW SALES REVENUES ARE DISTRIBUTED BETWEEN COMMERCIAL OR RESIDENTIAL USERS; AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS. EX-IM WILL AIRMAIL COPIES OF LETTERS TO POST.

3. EX-IM ALSO POINTS OUT THAT GOE HAS FAILED TO MEET DEBT PAYMENT TO EX-IM DUE APRIL 1, 1974.

4. ON QUESTION OF NUCLEAR POWER STATION FOR EGYPT, THIS IS UNDER ACTIVE REVIEW WITHIN CONTEXT OF GENERAL U.S. POLICY ON PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR POWER WORLDWIDE AND IN THE MIDDLE EAST SPECIFICALLY. SUBJECT IS COMPLEX, HOWEVER, AND REQUIRES FUNDAMENTAL DECISIONS OF POLITICAL, LEGAL, AND TECHNICAL NATURE. YOU MAY TELL SULTAN THAT MATTER IS UNDER ACTIVE STUDY AMONG WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND WE WILL HAVE ANSWER FOR HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. FYI: AMB GHORBAL SEVERAL WEEKS AGO RAISED ISSUE OF EX-IM FINANCING FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WITH EX-IM PRES. CASEY. EX-IM PRESIDENT DISCOURAGED THE EGYPTIANS FROM APPLYING TO THE BANK FOR SUCH FINANCING AT THIS TIME.

5. WE WILL TRY TO BE IN TOUCH WITH MAHER ABAZA AND KAMAL EFFAT WHILE THEY ARE IN WASHINGTON.

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